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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.43

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. By operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.43, the General Assembly would decide to convene a special session of the Assembly for a duration of three days, from 30 June to 2 July 1999, at the highest possible level of participation, in order to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

2. It is anticipated that during the special session there will be four meetings per day with full services, including the provision of verbatim records for plenary meetings only. It is estimated that there will be 176 pages of documentation to be processed in six languages.

3. The requirements at full cost for the special session are estimated at $396,200 for conference servicing and $109,000 for related support services (security, sound engineering, maintenance etc.). The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999. However, provision is made under sections 27D (Support services) and 27E (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 not only for the requirements of the meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for the requirements of meetings authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. Consequently, should the General Assembly decide to adopt the

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draft resolution, no additional appropriations would be required in the 1998-1999 programme budget for conference and support services.

4. In accordance with the established practice and on the basis of past pattern of expenditure, it is estimated that $120,000 would be required for the round-trip travel expenses of one representative for each least developed country to the special session.

5. No provision for these travel requirements has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. Following a review, it was concluded that the resources proposed for the 1998-1999 biennium under section 7A (Economic and social affairs) were fully committed to the implementation of the mandated activities and would not allow for the absorption of the $120,000 required for the travel cost of the representatives of the least developed countries.

6. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium.

7. Should it not prove possible to meet the amount of $120,000 from the contingency fund, the implementation of the request would have to be postponed or the activities and outputs to be carried out under section 7A foreseen for the biennium 1998-1999 would have to be reprogrammed or modified.

8. In conclusion, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.43, additional requirements of $120,000 would arise under section 7A (Economic and social affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

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